



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 September 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports modern-day train-robbers are preying upon the nation's railways, especially targeting freight trains loaded with such merchandise as electronics, cigarettes, and tires. (See item [10](#))
- The Associated Press reports a Washington state fiber optic cable phone line was intentionally cut on Wednesday, disrupting telephone service for more than 60,000 customers in Bellingham, WA, and other scattered areas in Whatcom County. (See item [23](#))
- The Associated Press reports that according to an analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's infrastructure is full of cracks, leaks, and holes and is getting worse. (See item [26](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 04, Today's Sunbeam (NJ)* — **New Jersey nuclear plant guards allowed better arms.** Security guards at New Jersey's nuclear facilities won a concession from the state on Wednesday, September 4, when Gov. James E. McGreevey signed a bill that will allow security personnel to carry semi-automatic weapons. **The new law addresses concerns by security guards that they were not equipped well enough to defend plants from terrorists. The new**

state law will allow security personnel at nuclear power plants to carry and possess hollow nose ammunition and certain semi-automatic weapons classified as assault firearms while performing their duties. Prior to the measure, the guards were not allowed to use such weapons. Guards that carry both the weapons and ammunition would need to be federally licensed to do so and would be obligated to return the firearms daily to designated supervisors. Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/sunbeam/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1062663600315100.xml>

2. *September 04, Reuters* — **FERC to issue U.S. natural gas price index report card.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will issue a progress report in early 2004 on whether energy companies are adequately reporting natural gas prices, said William Hederman, director of FERC's market oversight and investigation on Thursday, September 4. The assessment would come about six months after FERC's calls to rebuild price reporting systems and could include the names of the companies that refuse to report prices to publishers that compile indexes. **Many energy companies stopped reporting natural gas and electricity trades in the unregulated over-the-counter markets after charges that false price reporting had become rampant in the industry. Those prices are tabulated by publishers and used as the basis for contracts worth billions of dollars in energy supplies.** Several companies admitted their natural gas traders had submitted bogus data to publishers, and two former traders are facing fraud charges stemming from investigations into the issue. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030904/energy_ferc_natgas_1.html
3. *September 03, Oil and Gas Journal* — **OSHA and EPA issue new safety bulletin for refinery operations.** The US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in association with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a safety bulletin on Friday, August 29, about the hazards associated with refineries' delayed coker units (DCUs). The two regulators said the bulletin is designed to supplement what they called active industry efforts to exchange fire and safety technology and to increase awareness of environmental and occupational hazards associated with DCU operations. **OSHA and EPA said that the batch portion of DCU operations (drum switching and coke cutting) create unique hazards, resulting in relatively frequent and serious accidents.** According to US government data, one out of every three refineries in the US has a DCU; there are 53 DCUs now in operation in the US. **Regulators noted that the increasingly limited supply of higher quality crude oil has meant that refiners have to rely on more intensive, and often times more dangerous, processing techniques.** Bulletin: http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib_08_29_03.pdf. Source: http://ogj.pennnet.com/articles/web_article_display.cfm?ARTICLE_ID=186057

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *September 04, Government Accounting Office* — **Report—GAO-03-727: DoD Contract Payments: Management Action Needed to Reduce Billions in Adjustments to Contract Payment Records. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) has reported that the Department of Defense's (DoD) inability to accurately account for and report on disbursements is a long-term, major problem.** GAO was requested to determine (1) the magnitude of the adjustments and related costs in fiscal year 2002, (2) why contracts, including payment terms, are so complex, (3) the key factors that caused Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Columbus to make payment adjustments, and (4) what steps DoD is taking to address the payment allocation problems. GAO recommends that DoD (1) develop options for presenting standard payment instructions in contracts and (2) automate those instructions in the Mechanization of Contract Administration Services (MOCAS) system. **GAO also recommends that DoD's contracting community and DFAS follow existing regulations and procedures concerning contract payment instructions. In its comments, DoD concurred with two recommendations and partially concurred with two others related to developing and automating the standard payment instructions.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-727>

5. *September 04, Fort Detrick Standard (MD)* — **Air Force office studies aging aircraft.** Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche asked Lt. General Michael E. Zettler, Air Force deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics, to come up with a process to provide senior leaders with an assessment of the service's aircraft inventory, similar to the Navy's process for retiring ships. In answer to that directive, Air Force Aeronautical Systems Center, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, invented the Fleet Viability Board process and continues to support the Air Staff function. **Board officials coordinate the studies on particular airframes and make recommendations to service leaders about the future of those airframes within the Air Force. In the past, the Air Force had no official system for determining when aircraft should be retired from service.** The board is not a decision-making body, said Colonel Francis P. Crowley, the board's director. Its recommendations will be presented as unbiased factual statements about an airframe. Board officials are developing the processes to assess a particular fleet. However, they will examine maintenance and depot records, as well as the cost of continuing to fly a type of aircraft and the effectiveness of its weapons systems.

Source: http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/standard/8_18/national_news/2_4933-1.html

6. *September 04, Navy NewsStand* — **UAV controlled from USS Denver. In late August, the USS Denver successfully commanded the U.S. Navy's Fire Scout unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to launch, maneuver and land for the first time.** The USS Denver is an Austin-class amphibious transport ship supporting the initial ship suitability testing for the U.S. Navy's newest tactical unmanned aerial vehicle. The air vehicle took-off and landed at Naval Base Ventura County, CA. Controlled by a ground control station running the Tactical Control System (TCS) software aboard the ship, the air vehicle was launched, flew for well over an hour in the vicinity of the ship, and recovered safely ashore. TCS is the common ground control station architecture for UAVs. TCS provides command and control of UAVs and their payloads, as well as data dissemination to designated C4I systems. TCS will provide the capability to operate different types of UAVs and payloads from a single ground station.

Source: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=9354

Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

7. *September 04, NewstalkZB News (NZ)* — **Plane chemical spill causes delays. At least three people are receiving medical treatment after an in-flight chemical spill on an Air Pacific flight.** The plane landed in Auckland just after 4pm Thursday. **The chemical, tributyltin oxide, leaked into the cabin from the cargo hold.** It is known to be a chest and respiratory irritant. Three people are being treated by ambulance staff and the plane is currently being decontaminated by the fire service. Passengers due to depart on the flight's return to Fiji have been delayed for several hours.

Source: <http://xtramsn.co.nz/news/0..3882-2640541.00.html>

8. *September 04, BBC* — **Qantas worried by missile threat. Australia's Government and the national airline Qantas are looking at ways to protect passenger planes from attacks by shoulder-fired missiles, officials said on Thursday. Speaking on Australian national radio, Prime Minister John Howard said the threat of such attacks was probably greater than that of hijacking.** He said that Qantas, in co-operation with the government, was considering installing a system which would provide a decoy to foil approaching rockets. "They have the effect of sending the missile off-course so it doesn't hit you," Howard said, at the start of a parliamentary inquiry into aviation security. But the prime minister added that such measures were often expensive, and more analysis was needed before any decision was made on whether to apply them to commercial flights. **Missile counter-measures are already fitted to military aircraft and helicopters in many areas of the world, and Israel is soon to install built-in protection systems on its passenger planes as well.** The Government launched its review of aviation security last month, following a series of security incidents on domestic flights. In one incident in May, a man armed with wooden stakes tried to hijack and crash a Qantas plane.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3080036.stm>

9. *September 04, Bloomberg News* — **Amtrak could get 28% funding boost. Amtrak, the U.S. passenger railroad that almost shut down in 2002 from a lack of funds, would get a 28 percent federal budget increase under proposed legislation approved by a Senate subcommittee.** Amtrak would receive \$1.35 billion in the fiscal year that begins October 1, up from \$1.05 billion in the current year, according to a bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee's transportation, treasury and general government subcommittee. "I know at \$900 million, they would be shutting tracks down" and Amtrak would go bankrupt, Senator Patty Murray of Washington state told reporters after the vote in Washington. Amtrak got a \$205 million bailout to keep trains running last year after saying it would have to shut down in July 2002 without the supplement. Amtrak says it needs \$1.8 billion in government funding in the fiscal year that begins October 1. **The Senate bill also would boost highway spending to \$33.8 billion, the same level the House Appropriations Committee approved,**

which is an increase of \$4.5 billion over the president's request. The House and Senate bills total about \$90 billion in U.S. transportation program spending in the year that begins October 1.

Source: <http://www.pbn.com/contentmgr/showdetails.php?id=17125>

10. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Modern-day train-robbers prey upon the nation's railways.** Instead of six-shooters and horses, these modern-day train robbers used two-way radios, night-vision goggles and bolt cutters. Instead of bandanas, they had ski caps monogrammed "CRB," for Conrail Boyz. **Train robbery, a quintessentially 19th-century crime, is rolling on into the 21st century. Along with the technology, though, the targets have changed: The old gangs preyed mostly on passenger trains, snatching gold and cash from riders and the baggage-car safe. Today, freight trains loaded with such merchandise as electronics, cigarettes and tires are the lure.** "If you can sell it on the street easy, they'll get it," said James Beach, a captain for the Union Pacific railroad police in Fort Worth, Texas. Law enforcement authorities have responded with advanced technology of their own. Just as Pinkerton men used the newfangled telegraph to track Cassidy, today's railroad police use computers to pinpoint where cargo disappeared, and infrared scopes that reveal people hiding in rail yards. **The Conrail Boyz helped make Newark — which has the East Coast's busiest container port and is served by hundreds of trains — a hotbed of train robbery. Other lucrative areas for theft include Chicago, Dallas, East St. Louis, IL, and Memphis, TN, because the freight lines run through poor and usually rough parts of town.**

Source: <http://newsobserver.com/24hour/nation/story/988250p-6941018c.html>

11. *September 02, Transportation Security Administration* — **DHS authorizes \$425 million to help airports meet security demands.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), on Tuesday, signed "Letters of Intent" for three of the nation's largest airports to help defray the costs of installing permanent explosive detection systems integrated with the airport's checked baggage conveyor systems. **The three airports, Denver International Airport, Las Vegas McCarran International Airport, and Los Angeles International Airport are the latest airports to enter into such arrangements with the Transportation Security Administration, (TSA) an agency of DHS. TSA expects to agree to similar financial arrangements with several more airports in the next few weeks. Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge said, "Full inline baggage screening is a crucial element in our overall homeland security strategy. The 'Letters of Intent' will speed up the process of installing this critical security equipment at these airports."** Permitted capital improvement costs include preliminary site preparations, structural reinforcement to support new equipment, electrical work, heating, air conditioning and other environmental improvements, as well as conveyor belts, tables, and physical enhancements necessary to operate an in line system.

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=8&content=677>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *September 04, Times* — **Postal facility to receive test.** The U.S. Postal Service is expected to pump chlorine dioxide into the ductwork inside the anthrax-tainted Hamilton, NJ, postal facility Friday in the first test using gas from the system built to fumigate the building.

Postal spokesman Burt St. John said preparations for tomorrow's test will begin Thursday. Workers will pump the gas through ductwork, then remove it, St. John said. "It is a test of routing the chlorine dioxide into the building through ductwork, routing it out and determining how well it is cleansed," St. John said. The Postal Service said the performance testing will be conducted with oversight by the state Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The results of the testing should be known, St. John said, within "a matter of days." **If everything works as expected, this week's testing would be followed by more extensive testing, he said. During a community meeting in early August, postal officials estimated the building might be fumigated in early November. St. John said the Postal Service continues to eye that time period.** The processing and distribution facility has been closed since October 2001 after it processed at least four anthrax-laden letters. Source: http://www.nj.com/news/times/index.ssf?base/news-0/10626645_9260130.xml

13. *September 03, DM News* — **Postal reform hearing postponed. A Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing set for Thursday on the recommended reforms of the presidential postal commission has been postponed, the committee said Wednesday. No new hearing date was set.** The committee did not announce a reason for the postponement. James A. Johnson and Harry Pearce, co-chairs of the reform commission, were scheduled to testify. In July, the commission issued a report that suggested widespread changes including increased automation, fewer employees, changes to the collective bargaining process and increased power to close unprofitable post offices. Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=2490_2

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Agriculture Sector

14. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Drought not letting up on West's farmers. Southwestern Colorado, most of Utah, western Montana, western Wyoming, and parts of New Mexico are still stuck in an extreme drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center. Farmers in Colorado's San Luis Valley are considering paying each other to quit planting for a while to cut water use and rebuild groundwater supplies.** "We've run up against our limits here," said Ray Wright, a farmer and president of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. The numbers can be deceiving: Colorado's wheat crop could reach 77 million bushels this year, double last year's harvest when the state suffered through one of the worst droughts on record. But hopes for next year's crops are wilting, farmers are delaying planting because the ground is too dry. Hundreds of irrigation wells in northeast Colorado have been shut down in a dispute over the impact of pumping South Platte River water. **Wyoming's wheat harvest is forecast at 4.8 million bushels this year, up from last year's 2.3 million but smaller than the pre-drought harvest of 6.1 million, said Dick Coulter, state agricultural statistician. In southwestern Wyoming, farmers and ranchers are running out of irrigation water, which could affect hay supplies for livestock.** Source: <http://www.wilmingtonstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030904/APF/309040543&cachetime=5>

15. *September 04, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **Close contact helps spread CWD. A new study has found that chronic wasting disease (CWD) spreads with remarkable efficiency among**

deer that come in close contact with each other, a finding that suggests the disease will be difficult to control and supports the idea of a ban on baiting deer. At the same time, transmission of the disease from mother to unborn offspring is not a significant mode of infection, according to the study. Rather, transmission among animals that are in close proximity, such as when they are artificially fed, come together socially in the wild, are confined to captive facilities and game farms, appears to be the way the disease spreads. "To me, it looks like baiting and feeding is a bad idea," said John Fischer, director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Bringing animals into contact with each other would increase opportunities for it to occur." The study did not address exactly how the disease jumps from one animal to the next, although saliva, mucus, urine, and feces are suspected. The study, which followed a group of captive mule deer over five years, was designed to determine whether maternal transmission or horizontal transmission was the primary way the disease spread.

Source: http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/668824_0.htm

16. *September 04, Press Democrat* — **Oak treatment. Moving quickly to get out a promising treatment for sudden oak death disease, California regulators are recommending a fungicide treatment that is already widely used on crops.** The expedited registration process for the fungicide followed nursery and woodland studies by University of California scientists that found it helps oaks fight off the scourge by reducing the growth rate of the microbe that causes the disease. **The research is part of a national effort driven by fears of the potential damage from sudden oak death, which has killed tens of thousands of California's oaks and could spread to other states.** If formally approved for oaks, the fungicide would be made available to arborists and others licensed to use chemical treatments. Sudden oak death is a forest disease found in California's central and northern coastal counties and an area of southern Oregon. The disease is caused by a microbe, *Phytophthora ramorum*, that has been found to infect some three dozen plant species. It is lethal to some plants, while other plants help spread the microbe. **The fungicide won't kill the microbe. But treatments could help oaks resist the disease for several years or more, and that might buy time for trees should the epidemic pass.**

Source: http://www.pressdemocrat.com/local/news/04oaks_b3.html

17. *September 04, OsterDowJones Commodity News* — **USDA to open border to more Canadian packers soon. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase the number of Canadian beef processors eligible for import permits as early as this week, said USDA Undersecretary Bill Hawks. Currently, USDA issues import permits only to Canadian packers that produce beef solely from cattle under 30 months old, but an agreement is in the works to expand that list to plants that also slaughter older cattle but keep those animals and that beef segregated.** As of Wednesday, the USDA had provided only 19 permits for Canadian beef shipments since it began issuing them August 28, but the pace of permit approvals should increase as soon as USDA agrees to accept beef from segregated Canadian plants, according to Hawks. He said that USDA has accepted the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's proposal to determine cattle ages by inspecting the teeth of the animals, but technical details still remain unresolved on how Canadian packers keep meat and animals physically separated.

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=21110

Food Sector

18. *September 04, Washington Post* — **Food protection.** Since the beginning of the Iraq war, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has increased testing for biological, radiological, and chemical contaminants in meat, poultry, and egg products by 50 percent, said Elsa A. Murano, undersecretary for food safety at the USDA. To prepare for the possibility of an attack on the food supply, Murano participates in crisis simulations with supervisors from other agencies. In a recent scenario, terrorists had contaminated food with botulism, E. coli, and chemical toxins. Murano, in the simulation, shut down the nation's 6,500 meat and poultry processing plants, which would have caused estimated losses of billions of dollars per day if the scenario became reality. "It's one of the most vulnerable points that we have as a society," said Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, who has worked with Murano on food security issues. "Imagine you get into a food supply at Fort Bragg or a Coast Guard base. You could bring a whole community to its knees." The Food and Safety Inspection Service, which Murano administers, recently issued new security guidelines for transporting meat, poultry, and egg products. The agency plans to issue guidelines for consumers in October.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22484-2003Sep 3.html>

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

Public Health Sector

19. *September 04, Star-Telegram* — **Ambulance service to monitor suspicious symptoms.** A Fort Worth, TX, ambulance service has purchased software designed to alert public health officials in case of a bioterrorism event. The software identifies suspicious clusters of symptoms from calls made to 911 dispatch operators and alerts authorities via pager, e-mail, or fax. The software monitors more than 6 million people nationwide. The ambulance service dispatches and provides ambulance service for Fort Worth and 13 nearby communities. It handles about 70,000 calls a year. "The company is in a unique position to get a very broad sampling of what's happening healthwise in the county," said Howard McMahan, board chairman. "An event may be occurring that is much more significant than a single hospital would know about because they may be only able to see a small percentage of the cases." The software will work with the ambulance service's emergency dispatch computer and determine whether symptoms listed during 911 calls exceed normal levels, said Jack Eades, company director. Public health officials will set criteria for what types of calls they want monitored and what might be normal for this service area, he said. **Eades said he expects the software to be running before year's end.**

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/local/6689055.htm>

20. *September 04, Associated Press* — **SARS linked to Chinese animals.** The virus that infects humans with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is slightly different from one found in wild animals sold in China, but close enough to suggest the disease jumped from animals to humans and could do so again, researchers say. **Chinese scientists compared the genetic makeup of viral particles isolated from humans with SARS with a virus found in wild animals recently captured and being held in a retail food market. The animals were found to have a virus that was 99.8 percent genetically identical to a virus that causes SARS in humans.** Researchers found the virus in civets, raccoon–dogs, and ferret badgers that were offered for sale as food in a market in Shenzhen, but said it is not clear if these animals were the natural source of the virus. "It is conceivable that (the market animals) were all infected from another unknown animal source which is in fact the true reservoir in nature," the researchers said. **They also tested merchants in the market and found that eight of 20 wild animal traders and three of 15 workers who slaughter the animals had antibodies to the virus. Only five percent of the vegetable traders in the same market had the viral antibodies.** None of those tested, however, reported symptoms of SARS in the past six months.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/961313.asp?0cv=HB10>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

21. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Firefighters face new California blazes. Lightning sparked more than 200 fires in Northern California, including nearly two dozen that could burn badly out of control, fire officials said.** The state Forestry Department called about 4,000 firefighters Wednesday to the northeast — from Sonoma and Lake counties north to Humboldt, Trinity and Shasta counties. Fire officials were stretched so thin that 37 fires could not be monitored, department spokeswoman Karen Terrill said. In Lake County, the largest of two fires quickly grew to 3,000 acres in just a few hours, threatening about 200 structures outside Middletown, about 70 miles north of San Francisco, Terrill said. **No property damage or injuries were reported late Wednesday, though fires knocked out power to about 20,000 Pacific Gas and Electric customers in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties, company spokesman Lloyd Cokers said.** In Mendocino County, firefighters hustled to put out 60 fires by midafternoon — but were contending with another 60 as the day progressed. **Elsewhere in the West, smoke from Montana's wildfires was creating a health hazard around Glacier National Park, where three large fires were burning on 130,000 acres.** Smoke blanketed the region, with ash covering cars as far as 30 miles away.
Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=18306>

22. *September 03, Global Security Newswire* — **States, localities receive \$1.4 billion to improve**

bioterrorism preparedness. The Health and Human Services Department has released \$1.4 billion to states, territories and three metropolitan areas to help increase preparedness to respond to terrorism incidents and other emergencies, Secretary Tommy Thompson said Tuesday. **The department said \$870 million will be issued to help improve public health systems to address biological terrorism and similar emergencies and \$498 million will go toward helping states develop surge capacity to deal with mass casualty events.** According to the Associated Press, Connecticut will receive more than \$18 million of the new funds. Of that amount, \$11.9 million will go for bioterrorism response funding and more than \$6 million will go toward helping hospitals and health care facilities deal with casualties. Wisconsin will receive more than \$25 million to improve preparedness for a biological attack and other emergencies.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0903/090303gsn1.htm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Washington state phone line said intentionally cut. A fiber optic cable failure disrupted telephone service for more than 60,000 customers in Bellingham, WA, and other scattered areas in Whatcom County for five hours Wednesday, September 3.** The outage was traced to the failure of a fiber optic line in Snohomish County, Qwest spokesman Michael Dunne said. **Authorities said it appeared the cable was intentionally severed.** Customers could not call 911. Fiber optic phone lines in Snohomish County were severed twice in two days in September 2001, and the case was never solved. **This week's outage underscored the vulnerability of the county 911 system.** A system of cables along the Interstate 5 corridor links Bellingham's long-distance lines to a switch in Seattle. Qwest is planning a redundancy system to maintain full phone service in case of similar damage in the future, Dunne said. The work should be completed by the end of the year.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-09-04-phone-outage_x.htm

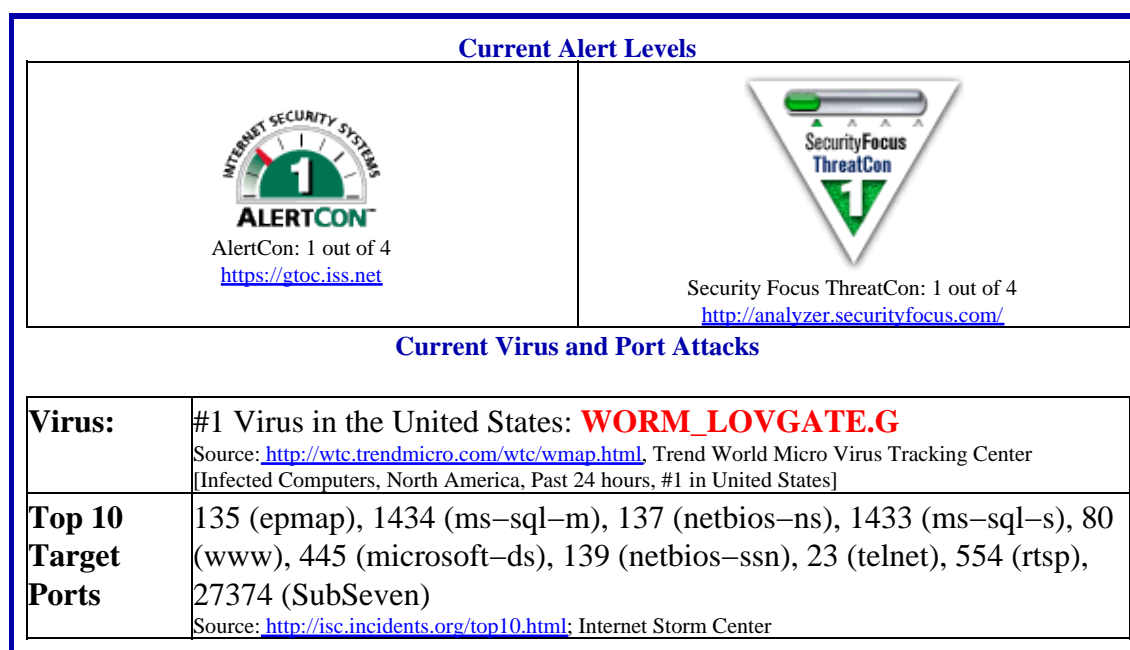
24. *September 03, Microsoft* — **Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-034: Flaw in NetBIOS Could Lead to Information Disclosure.** Under certain conditions, the response to a NetBT Name Service (NBNS) query may, in addition to the typical reply, contain random data from the target system's memory. This data could, for example, be a segment of HTML if the user on the target system was using an Internet browser, or it could contain other types of data that exist in memory at the time that the target system responds to the NBNS query. **An attacker could seek to exploit this vulnerability by sending a NBNS query to the target system and then examine the response to see if it included any random data from that system's memory.** If best security practices have been followed and port 137 UDP has been blocked at the firewall, Internet based attacks would not be possible. **Microsoft has assigned a risk rating of "Low" to this vulnerability** and a patch is available on the Microsoft website.

Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-034.asp>

25. *September 03, Government Computer News* — **Study: In a crisis, interoperability is paramount.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should focus its IT

architecture efforts on interoperability rather than technology, according to an industry trade group. The homeland security task force of the Government Electronics and IT Association (GEIA) studied last year's investigation of the Washington–area sniper attacks for potential lessons in IT deployment during a crisis. The GEIA task force found "a well–defined and executed relationship between the available information technology tools and law enforcement officers" in the sniper case. This was in large part because Montgomery County, MD, police shared its stockpile of wireless telephones with other agencies. Other lessons learned include "rapid access to a working integrated technology infrastructure" and the inclusion of IT and logistics in planned disaster drills, the study said. **The report also called for establishing a "virtual command post model" for secure interagency communications.** Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23392-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

26. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Report critical of American infrastructure. America's infrastructure is full of cracks, leaks and holes and is getting worse, according to an analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that gives the nation's transportation, water and energy systems an overall grade of D–plus.** The report, released September 3, said the condition of 12 categories of infrastructure hasn't improved in the past two years. **The report blamed a weak economy, limited federal programs, population growth and the threat of terrorism, which diverted money to security.** "Americans' concerns about security threats are real, but so are the threats posed by crumbling infrastructure," Thomas Jackson, ASCE president, said. "It doesn't matter if the dam fails because cracks have never been repaired or if it fails at the hands of a terrorist. The towns below the dam will still be devastated." The report is available on the ASCE Website:

<http://www.asce.org/reportcard/>

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-09-04-aging-infrast ructure _x.htm

- 27. September 04, BBC — Saudis seize 'terror' missiles.** Saudi authorities say they have seized a lorry-load of surface-to-air missiles destined for an unnamed terrorist group. The consignment was intercepted last month on a desert road near the port city of Jeddah. **Police say the weapons – capable of being used to bring down aircraft – had been smuggled from Yemen. Last month, air travellers from the United States and Britain were alerted to the possibility of attack if they went to Saudi Arabia. The alerts came after intelligence reports were relayed to Washington and London by the Saudis of a specific threat to British airlines flying in or out of Riyadh international airport.** And British Airways, one of the world's biggest airlines, suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia until further notice. The airliner says it has had good co-operation from the Saudi authorities and hopes to resume flights soon. The Americans are particularly sensitive to threats in Saudi Arabia following the suicide car bombings on 12 May on residential blocks housing Americans and other foreigners. Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3079654.stm

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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assesments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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